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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,766	09/17/2003	Kamiya Takuroh	242591US2	3841
22850	7590	07/25/2007		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
			EXAMINER	
			CHARLES, MARCUS	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3682	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			07/25/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/663,766

Applicant(s)

TAKUROH ET AL.

Examiner

Marcus Charles

Art Unit

3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-20 and 22-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :2/12/2007, 2/12/2007 and 10-31-2006.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the amendment filed 04-23-2007, which has been entered.

Claims 1-8 and 10-30 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-10 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kayahara et al. (6,269,228). Regarding claim 1 and 21, in figs. 21-22 and 24/36 respectively, Kayahara et al. discloses a belt drive comprising a plurality of rollers (12, 123, 122, 125)/(22-25, as in fig. 36) including a driving roller (227)/(24, as in fig. 36)); a belt (221) (20a, fig. 36) configured to be tensioned by the rollers and to be driven by the driven roller (227)/(24, in fig. 36)); the driving roller is arranged adjacent to an outside body (761)/(100, fig. 36) that contacts the outer surface of the belt; note the item 33, is apparently an absorbing member that absorbed the movement of the transfer roller when the drive roller contacts the outside body.

In claim 2, note the driving roller (227) is arranged opposite the outside body (761) across the belt.

In claim 3, note in fig. 21-22), the outside body is a cleaning blade (col. 36, lines 5-16).

In claim 5, note Kayahara et al. discloses the claimed invention.

In claim 6, note the recording medium (100).

In claim 7, note in fig. 36) the outside body is a recording medium (100).

In claim 8, note the rollers (42, fig. 24).

In claim 9, note the item 33, is apparently an absorbing member that absorbed the movement of the transfer roller when the drive roller contacts the outside body.

In claim 10, it is apparent that the resonant frequency of the absorbing member is different from periodic frequency of vibration caused by the contacts of the outer surface of the belt.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 4-23-2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant contended it is not clear as to how the element 33 absorbs shock because it is a transfer contact separation mechanism. It should be noted that item 31 is a transfer bias roller that needs to be bias by a mechanism (33) to and from the belt direction to contact or be separated from the belt with the roller. It is apparent that the biasing mechanism (33) is a biasing mechanism, which is configured to absorb vibration or shock between the roller and the drive roller. In fact and biasing element that gradually biases an element is configured to absorb shock or vibration to an extent. Therefore, the transfer contact/mechanism is configured to adsorbed shock. Therefore, for reasons given above, the rejection is deemed proper.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP


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§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marcus Charles whose telephone number is (571) 272-7101. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ridley Richard can be reached on (571) 272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


Marcus Charles
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3682
July 07, 2007